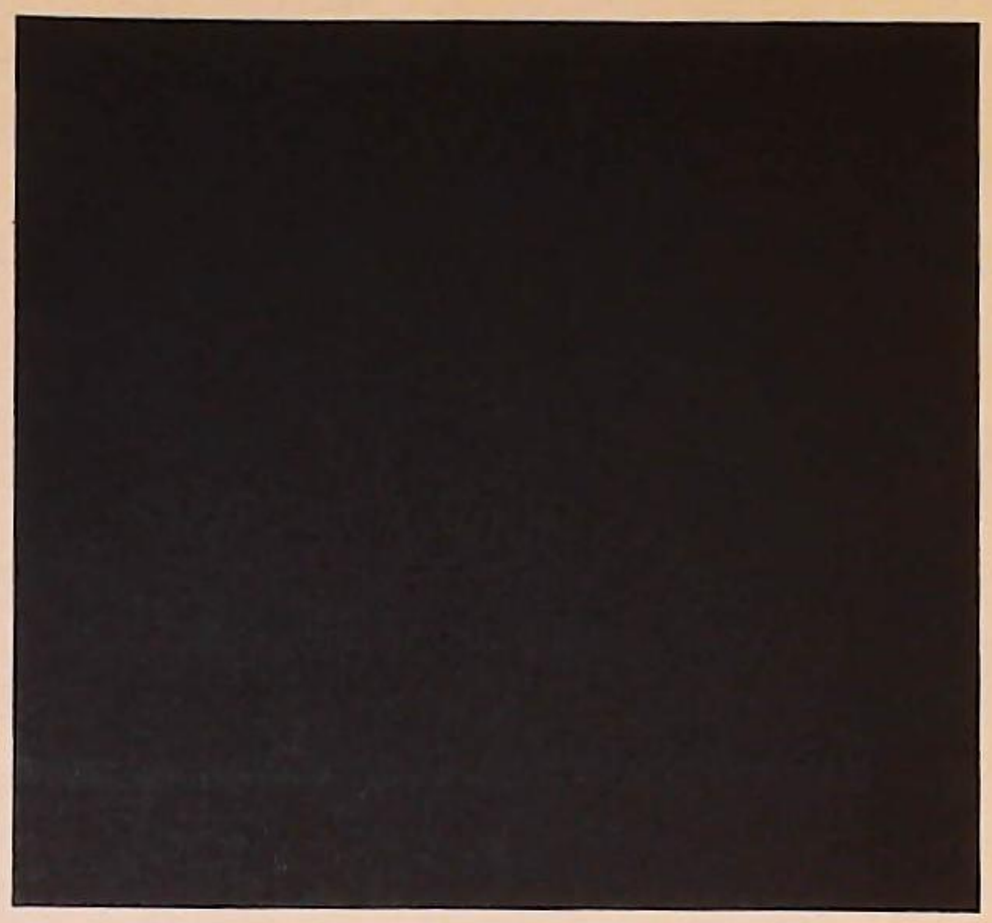
his surprised collegues saw that it resambled a prehistoric animal.



Fortunately for Gladkikh, the monster was seen again, this time by th man in charge of the expedition and two of his associates. They watcl the lake when they spotted a dorsal fin breaking the surface. The monster whipped the water with its long tail, before diving and vanishing out of sight.

In the summer of 1976, the geographical professor A. Petjerskij went to the volcanic lake Kokkol in the central Asia part of Russia, to look for early settlements. Instead he found a monster!

"Suddenly the surface rippled some 7-8 meters away from me", he sai later. "Blurred zigzag contours rose from the water and an enormous tail of at least 15 meters whipped the surface". A head, about one meters wide and two meters long, came out of the water close to the flabbergasted professor. "I turned around to get my rifle when I mee my son Volodja. He had also seen the strange whirls in the water and was on his way down to the lake. With my rifle we returned to the sh and saw that the serpent-like curvs grew larger and more visible. A minutes passed but suddenly the animal dived back into the depth and vanished".

Reports about similar monsters is also coming from Lake Ladoga and Onega, close to Leningrad and Petrosavodsk, from the very deep Lake Bajkal in Kashakstan and from a number of smaller mountain lakes in the Altaj region close to Ust-Kamenogorsk, bordering to China.

Iceland:

LEGENDS OF MONSTERS

SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME

THE SKRIMSL

The Icelandic Chronicle notes the appearance during the summer of 1: "of a wonderful thing in the Lagarflot which is believed to have been living animal. At times it seems like a great island, and at others, there appeared humps.. with water between them. No one knows the dimensions of the creature, for none saw its head or tail, consequent there is no certainty as to what it was". The Lagarflot is a long fresh water mountain lake in eastern Iceland.

The Icelanders called the animal skrimsl and it is referred to in seve sagas.

During 1860 a student of the ancient sagas and a member of the Norse Literary Society, the Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould, then only 29, toured th remoter parts of Iceland on a gothic version of the Grand Tour, painti watercolours of volcanoes, geysers and glaciers. Near the end of his travels he arrived one evening to a small province settlement. Two m Skogkotr and Martin, had just come from Skordalsvatn and gave Baring-Gould the following description of the Skrimsl:

The Skrimsl measures 42 feet long, the head and neck are 6 feet, the body 22 feet and the tail 18 feet.

Baring-Gould reproduces in his book the farmer´s sketch of the skrimsl. This naive drawing is a splendid piece of evidence, as it is c of the earliest we have of a lake monster, and is, moreover, the work

someone quite unaquainted with other descriptions of sea serpents.

Though it shows the head and humps od the descriptions, the neck see too short, nor do the proportions seem to fit the farmer´s own report. All the same, the delightful pair of whiskers tell us that the animal is a mammal, and we might guess that it must be related to th seals or otters.

THE MONSTER IN LAKE M†VATN

Another lake said to inhabit a monster is Lake M‡vatn, one of the largest lakes in Iceland; about 37 km2 in area it lies 278 m above sea level. The lake, which is very irregular in shape, is divided into two parts: Ytriflói and Sy›riflói. It is quite shallow, the average depth being 2.05 m (about 7 feet), and the maximum natural depth is 4 m (about 12 feet).

There are about fifty islands and islets in the lake, the largest of which are clusters of pseudocraters (explosion craters formed by lav flowing into a lake). Almost all inflow into the lake is from submerg springs along the eastern shore. At Reykjahlí› and Vogar the springs are tepid, but elsewhere they are cold. The small river Grænilækur, flowing from the spring-fed Lake Grænavatn, is the only surface flowing stream of appreciable size that runs into M‡vatn.

Seen in Lake M‡vatn is the now classical "log" and "upside-down boa that suddenly comes to life, revealing that there might be more betw the surface and a bottom of a lake than we understand in this world.